

**Investigation:            Homeland Security & Emergency Services**

“The 2005-2006 Solano Grand Jury elected to investigate the preparedness of the county and the seven cities within the county to determine their preparedness to react to a natural disaster or terrorist attack.”

**Finding #1:**

“The EOP does not address certain critical concerns in the event of a major disaster.”

**Response to Finding #1:**

The City of Dixon partially disagrees with the finding, as three of the four “critical concerns” outlined in recommendation #1, are either discussed in the City of Dixon Emergency Operations Plan or not appropriate for the City of Dixon. The remaining critical concern, a telephone “dial-up system, is addressed by the Solano County Office of Emergency Services notification system, which provides this service for the City of Dixon.

**Recommendation #1:**

“That the EOP be updated to address concerns that the Grand Jury has identified in the event of a major disaster, i.e. whether the city’s telephone system is capable of transmitting recorded alert messages to residents, method of notifying/communicating with parents when children are at school, provisions for medical care to residents, and preparedness advice to residents for the first 3-5 days after a disaster.”

**Response to Recommendation #1:**

Recommendation #1 contains four separate parts; each will be addressed separately. In three of the four areas the recommendation will not be implemented because it is neither warranted nor reasonable as outlined below:

1. The City of Dixon agrees with the first part of Recommendation #1 that the “dial-up” system for notification of local residents does need to be identified within the emergency plan, however, it is known that the city telephone system would be accessed by the Solano County Office of Emergency Services notification system which provides this service for the City of Dixon. The City of Dixon EOP will be revised to include the proper identification of the “dial-up” system by January 1, 2007.
2. The City of Dixon disagrees with the second part of Recommendation #1. Notification of the parents of children attending school is the function of the school district. The school district is a separate governmental agency required to maintain a separate EOP. Access to student records by the city during an emergency can be time consuming and difficult.
3. The City of Dixon disagrees with the third part of Recommendation #1; provisions for medical care to its residents are contained in the City of Dixon EOP under the Operations Section and are consistent with state and local procedures.
4. The City of Dixon disagrees with the fourth part of Recommendation #1. Preparedness advice to residents is not a function of an Emergency Operations Plan. Disaster preparedness is an on going effort, which the City has maintained for many years. Disaster preparedness information has been distributed in many ways over the years including press releases, handouts, mailings and local cable TV stations.

**Finding 2:**

“Communication functions are grouped with other logistical areas of responsibilities.”

**Response to Finding #2:**

The City of Dixon disagrees with the finding. Communications in the City of Dixon EOP is a responsibility assigned directly to the Solano County Director of Emergency Services, and is implemented to the level necessary.

**Recommendation 2:**

“Communication is such an important and essential function that it should be considered a separate responsibility in the EOC.”

**Response to Recommendation 2:**

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is neither warranted nor reasonable. Communications in the City of Dixon EOP is a responsibility assigned directly to the Solano County Director of Emergency Services, and is implemented to the level necessary. To develop a stand alone communications section would not be in keeping with recognized emergency operations practices and inconsistent with the State EOP. The guide with the duties of the communications section is contained in the list of Annexes along with all other duty assignments for various sections for easy retrieval when needed.

**Finding 3:**

“The EOP does not include useful resources in the community such as Amateur Radio Operators or CERT.”

**Response to Finding #3:**

The City of Dixon disagrees with the finding. The EOP does include Radio Amateur Civil Emergency as a resource in the communications component of the EOP and the City of Dixon Community Task Force, similar to a CERT, which is available when requested.

**Recommendation 3:**

“The City should develop and utilize the resources of Amateur Radio Operators and CERT and incorporate them into the EOP.”

**Response to Recommendation 3:**

Recommendation #3 contained two separate points, both which have been implemented in the City of Dixon and which will be addressed separately.

1. This recommendation has been implemented. The EOP does include Amateur Radio Operators in its EOP. Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) is identified as a resource in the communications component of the EOP and accessed through the Solano EOC.

2. This recommendation has been implemented. The City of Dixon has a Community Task Force, similar to a CERT, which is available when requested and included in the EOP.